All the counsel of God

"I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (**Acts 20:27**)

"Mr. Spurgeon told a story of a young Welshman many years ago, a man that the church seemed to recognize had some gifts and they sent him off to England for his theological training. He studied and was a good student. And he learned his languages, he learned his theology, and he learned how to prepare sermons and write them out. And he came home and he was going to preach his first sermon in his home church. And he stepped up into the pulpit, and preached his sermon. After the sermon was over, folks met him at the door, encouraged him, congratulated him, and spoke so highly of him. But there was one old elder in the church that he particularly hoped to have a good word from. This one old elder was the man who was respected in the congregation, as a man of knowledge and understanding of faith and commitment. And everybody else had left and this fella hadn't said a word. So finally the young preacher made the mistake of saying "You haven't said anything about my message, about my sermon, was there something that you wanted to say?" And the elder said "Well, now that you've asked–it was a very poor sermon." Needless to say the young man was taken aback "A very poor sermon!? Was there something wrong with my exposition of the passage?" "Oh no, you very faithfully expounded the passage." "Did I fail to illustrate things as I should?" "Oh no, your illustrations were just fine." "Well then, it must have been something about my gestures or my speech." "No, your gestures and speech were just fine." "Well then, was it not well-organized or not presented clearly?" And the old man said "No it wasn't that, actually the sermon was well organized and presented clearly." And the young preacher, after a little while, said "The sermon is well organized, well prepared, the exposition true, and presented well. What was wrong with it?" And the old man said "There was no Christ in your sermon." And he said "But Christ wasn't my subject." And the old man said "He should have been–because in every text in that book there is a road that takes you to Calvary. It's your business as a preacher to find that road and get to Calvary as quickly as you can." This book, the Bible, is the message of Jesus Christ crucified. When Paul said to the Corinthians *"I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified"* (1 Corinthians 2:2), that's exactly the same thing he said to the folks at Ephesus when he said *"I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God"* (Acts 20:27). Jesus Christ crucified is the message of Holy Scripture. In all scripture, the message is about our Savior, this is the message; this we have in common with all the prophets and all the apostles." [Amen!] – **Don Fortner**

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"For to me to live is Christ,
and to die is gain."
(Philippians 1:21)

Our church gathers together in New Caney, Texas at 23033 Hughey Ave, 77357 / (832) 543 5333

Bible Classes	Sun, 10 AM
Worship Service	Sun, 11 AM
Bible Study	Wed, 7 PM

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Joseph D Murphy, pastor
(832) 995 7925 / joseph@sovereigngrace.us

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH
in New Caney, Texas

Servicio en español domingo 6:00 PM y martes 7:00 PM

We extend our sympathy to **Shelby Fortner** and family on the recent death of her husband, Pastor **Don Fortner**. Don was our dear friend, and for many of you who believe, (along with our brothers and sisters in Danville, Kentucky) ***a faithful minister of Christ*** (Col 1:7). Beloved, *surely* ***goodness*** *and* ***mercy*** *shall follow* [us] *all the days of our life: and* [we] *will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all [Psalm 23:6, Revelation 22:21]. Amen!

WELCOME

Welcome! We're an imperfect church, with an imperfect pastor that loves the perfect Gospel of Christ. Beloved, *He shall save His people from their sins* (**Matthew 1:21**). It is our prayer that the Lord will be pleased to *call*, *convict*, and *comfort* you with the gospel of His blood and righteousness (**Isaiah 40:1-2**). You can expect a gospel message that's about 45 minutes, hymns that glorify our Lord, scripture readings, and helpful people to answer any questions you may have.

CONNECTION CARD

We invite everyone to fill out a **Connection Card** (you'll find one in the pew). This is an easy way to keep us informed of what's going on in your life, as well as a place where you can ask questions and update your contact information.

If you are a first-time visitor, please fill one out. As a thank-you, we'd love to send you a copy of '**The religion that comes from God**'.

Do you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ? If you do, you are His purchased possession. We would love to meet you after the service to get to know you better.

WEBSITES

Be sure to visit our websites for gospel articles, audio messages, and books.

sovereigngrace.us - Our church website, bulletins, articles
bookshelf.sovereigngrace.us - Free ebooks, tracts, booklets
appsermons.sovereigngrace.us - Audio messages for Apple devices
andsermons.sovereigngrace.us - Audio messages for Android devices
apparticles.sovereigngrace.us - Audio Articles for Apple devices
andarticles.sovereigngrace.us - Audio Articles for Android devices

GRACE ARTICLES

"[Pastor], if the message you have prepared is all theory, all history, all fact, all doctrine, and it doesn't do anything for your heart – you might as well take the paper and throw it out on the floor, for all the good it will do. So, find something that speaks to your heart, that you need – and the folks you preach to, just might need it." – **Don Fortner**

Excerpt from 'The preparation of a sermon / La preparación de un sermón'

From the Beginning

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life" (**1 John 1:1**)

"In this opening verse of his epistle, John sets forth the eternal divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Really there are three things he distinctly seems to be pressing here, and that is Christ's eternality, His pre-existence, not as God the Son, that's understood; if He's God He's eternal, but His pre-existence as our mediator, His pre-existence as our surety, His pre-existence as the last Adam. He stood before God, He stepped forth before time began; in the beginning, before ever the earth was, He stepped forth as our surety and He was in the beginning the Word of life, God the Word. John is telling us that Jesus Christ our Savior, our Substitute, our sin Atonement, the Lamb of God was from the beginning; so that before there was a *sinner*–there was a *redeemer*, before we *fell* in our father Adam–we *stood* in our Lord Jesus Christ, before we were *lost*–we were *found*, before we went *astray*–He came and got *us*, before we ever knew spiritual *death*–spiritual *life* was ours in Christ Jesus. This is eternal life which is with the Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ. From the beginning, when there was no creature, when God existed alone in the sacred persons of the eternal Godhead, Jesus Christ stood forth as our surety and our mediator. We were *chosen* in Him, we were *blessed* in Him, we were *accepted* in Him, we were *redeemed* in Him, we were *justified* in Him, we were *sanctified* in Him, we were *glorified* in Him, and this was all done before the world began. Read your Bible. If you're justified *now*, you were justified in *eternity*. If you come to experience life *now*, life was yours in *eternity*. From the beginning we were accepted of God in the beloved." [1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Timothy 1:9] [Amen!] – **Don Fortner**